

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus connected to a plurality of information terminals by way of a network, comprising:

storing means for storing user information; ~~wherein said user information includes a user ID, a password and an electronic mail address;~~

authenticating means for authenticating a user; ~~based on said user information stored in said storing means;~~

recording means for recording a request information transmitted by a first user authenticated by said authenticating means; wherein said first user is a customer and said request information is a non-binding request for an offer to sell goods matching the request to said customer;

supplying means for supplying a service list of said request information recorded by said recording means to a second user authenticated by said authenticating means in response to a demand entered from said second user;

said recording means recording service information transmitted by said second user in response to the request information in said service list; wherein said second user is a shop and said service information is said offer; ~~wherein said service information includes an address information on the network for obtaining directly from said second user a desired information among said service information;~~

searching means for searching for service information corresponding to said request information and said user information of said second user recorded by said recording means, in response to a demand for a request list from said first user; and

transferring means for transferring said request list to said first user. ~~wherein said request list includes a mark which expresses the existence of service information corresponding to the request information; wherein said transferring means transfers said service information corresponding to said request information as a search result to said first user by an electronic mail based on said user information for the first user stored in said storing means.~~

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for processing information among a plurality of information terminals connected to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

storing user information for each of said information terminals; ~~wherein said user information includes a user ID, a password and an electronic mail address;~~

authenticating a user based on said user information; ~~stored in said storing means,~~

recording a request information transmitted by a first user authenticated in said authenticating step, wherein said first user is a customer and said request information is a non-binding request for an offer to sell goods matching the request to said customer;

supplying a service list of said request information recorded in said recording step to a second user authenticated in said authenticating step in response to a demand entered from said second user;

recording service information transmitted by said second user in response to the request information in said service list; wherein said second user is a shop and said service information is said offer; ~~wherein said service information includes an address information on the network for obtaining directly from said second user a desired information among said service information;~~

searching for service information corresponding to said request information and said user information of the second user recorded in response to a demand for a request list from said first user, and

transferring said request list to said first user. ~~wherein the request list includes a mark which expresses the existence of service information corresponding to the request information; wherein said transferring step transfers said service information corresponding to said request information as a search result to said first user by an electronic mail based on said user information for the first user stored in said storing means.~~

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the searching means allows a customer to search request information submitted by other customers.

14. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the customer can purchase goods using request information from other customers.

15. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user information includes a user ID, a password, and an electronic mail address.

16. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the authenticating means uses the user information stored in the storing means to authenticate the user.

17. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the service information given to a customer includes a direct link to the seller's service information.

18. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the request list given to a customer indicates the availability of service information for a corresponding request information.

19. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transferring means transfers search results, including service information, to the customer using electronic mail.

20. (New) The information processing method according to claim 7, including a step where the customer searches request information submitted by other customers.

21. (New) The information processing method according to claim 7, including a step where the customer purchases goods using request information from other customers.

22. (New) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the user information includes a user ID, a password, and an electronic mail address.

23. (New) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the authenticating step is done using the user information stored during the storing step.

24. (New) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the recorded service information includes a direct link to the seller's service information.

25. (New) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the request list given to a customer indicates the availability of service information for a corresponding request information.

26. (New) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the step of transferring the request list to the customer is done by electronic mail.